

intelligence agencies are reporting that the Iraq war is fueling global terrorism, making America less safe. After nearly 3½ years of the war in Iraq, nearly 2,700 American lives lost, our own independent government agencies are saying the incompetence of the Bush administration's Iraq policy is radicalizing and inspiring the creation of terrorists around the world.

Democrats are focused on fighting the war on terror, not creating terrorists. Democrats are focused on keeping America secure and bringing our troops home from Iraq safe and soon.

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO MEXICO"?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Federal judges have been trying to rip the pledge of allegiance out of our schools and have prevented it from being recited by school kids in nine States. Now our pledge is under siege again. Our kids are being intimidated into pledging allegiance to a foreign flag.

Velasco Elementary in Texas celebrated Mexican Independence Day by handing out small Mexican flags and making children as young as pre-kindergarten stand as parents recited the Mexican pledge in Spanish. That pledge honors the heroes of Mexico, promising always to be faithful and dedicate loyalty to that nation.

Pledging allegiance to a foreign flag is un-American. The principal of the school, Sam Williams, justified reciting the pledge meekly by saying, "Well, we want to be diverse at our school."

There is only one flag our children should uphold and hold. There is only one pledge that they should recite. The Mexican Government and illegals may have their sights on retaking the Southwest, but we will not hand it over to them one student at a time. In the words of the Texans who fought originally for Mexican independence, you'll have to "come and take it." Our loyalty is to America, not to Mexico.

And that's just the way it is.

APPLAUDING THE CAPITOL FLAG OFFICE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the courageous actions of employees in the U.S. Capitol flag office.

Last week, an armed intruder evaded security and broke into the Capitol, leading police on a chase spanning four floors of the building. The perpetrator represented a serious threat to the safety of Members, staff, and the visiting public. At the time of his capture, he was carrying a .22 caliber pistol and was high on crack cocaine. But thanks

to the sharp instincts, quick thinking, and decisive action of a trio of Capitol flag office employees, Monday, September 18, was not to be a tragic day. According to published reports, these brave employees were able to subdue the intruder, holding him in custody until Capitol Police arrived.

Mr. Speaker, I have got some serious concerns, as I think we all do, regarding how easily Capitol security was breached last week. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on securing the Capitol and increasing the size of the police force since 9/11. But that is a debate for another time and place. Today, I want to use this time on the House floor to recognize individuals from the flag office involved in last week's security breach. They are part of a team who day in and day out ensure that constituents across the country receive their own crisp edition of the Stars and Stripes freshly flown over the Capitol dome. Their actions in a dangerous situation speak volumes, displaying a willingness to put their safety on the line for this institution and for their fellow workers.

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the old saying, "united we stand, divided we fall," is so true. Just as common language can unite a people, the lack of a unified national language can be enormously divisive. However, the Senate's immigration bill failed the American people by giving them a watered down, feel-good statement that does nothing.

New immigrants already have to learn English to become citizens. It is only common sense that we come together under one unified language by making English the official language of the United States. Listen up, America: enough is enough. United we stand, and English we speak.

A BLESSED NATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are a blessed Nation. We have not suffered another attack on our soil since September 11, and we are grateful. We have killed or captured dozens of members of al Qaeda and the Taliban. Our military and intelligence forces are working both hard and smart.

After two decades of having U.S. interests attacked by the terrorists, we have taken the war on terrorism to the terrorists' backyard. For decades, whether it was the Iranian hostage crisis, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the first World Trade Center bombing, or the USS *Cole* bombing, we did not

view terrorist attacks as a declaration of war. And that is what they were, but we didn't see it. We used law enforcement to go after terrorists and we sought to negotiate. What a mistake that was. But it is a mistake all too many who prefer appeasement want us to repeat.

Can any of us even imagine, after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt suggesting we negotiate a resolution or that we could simply prosecute those involved? Of course it is unimaginable. We are right to be in the Middle East, and we are right to treat this as the war it is.

BERRY COLLEGE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Berry College in Rome, Georgia, which this year was named as one of the top two colleges in the South by the prestigious U.S. News and World Report rankings.

For those of us who know Berry College, this honor comes as no surprise. This past spring I had the honor of addressing Berry College at the 2006 graduation ceremony. I was incredibly impressed by the student body. Berry is helping mold engaged, eager, driven students into the kind of leaders our communities are fortunate to have.

Berry College's founder and namesake, Martha Berry, once noted that education combines the head, the heart, and the hands. I know Berry students are receiving a superior education that combines high-quality academic learning with moral and spiritual growth and experience and worthwhile service to others. This makes Berry not only one of the top colleges in the South but in the Nation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Berry's president, Stephen Briggs, and the students, faculty, staff, and alumni that have made Berry College into a premier educational institution.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 22, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTER, *Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 22, 2006, at 9:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3127.

That the Senate passed S. Con. Res. 116.

That the Senate passed S. 2562.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 22, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 22, 2006, at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 3850.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY ACT

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1344) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1344

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL SEGMENT OF FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK IN CONNECTICUT FOR STUDY FOR POTENTIAL ADDITION TO NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut possess important resource values, including wildlife, ecological, and scenic values, and historic sites and a cultural past important to America's heritage.

(2) There is a longstanding interest among State and local officials, area residents, and river and brook users in undertaking a con-

certed cooperative effort to manage the river and brook in a productive and meaningful way.

(b) DESIGNATION.—Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(139) LOWER FARMINGTON RIVER AND SALMON BROOK, CONNECTICUT.—The segment of the Farmington River downstream from the segment designated as a recreational river by section 3(a)(156) to its confluence with the Connecticut River, and the segment of the Salmon Brook including its mainstem and east and west branches."

(c) TIME FOR SUBMISSION.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study required by the amendment made by subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1415

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1344, introduced by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) and amended by the House Resources Committee would designate a segment of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River Systems.

I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, while the majority has decided to bypass the hearing and the committee consideration process for the pending legislation, H.R. 1344, since it simply authorizes a study of a proposed river designation, we have no objection to adoption of the bill by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), the author of the bill.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI); and I thank the gentlewoman from Guam for her concurrence in moving this study forward; and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), chairman of the Resources Committee, for allowing this matter to come to the floor of the House early in the week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1344, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act. This important legislation builds on the designation of the west branch of the Farmington River which I initiated in 1994. The bill

commissions a feasibility study to evaluate whether the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook qualify as a Wild and Scenic Partnership River within the National Park Service's Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The lower Farmington is defined as a 40-mile stretch between the lower Collinsville Dam in Burlington and the Rainbow Dam in Windsor in the Fifth and First Congressional Districts.

The Farmington River and Salmon Brook's recreational and environmental contributions to our State are well-known and must be protected for future generations. The 14 miles of the Farmington River's West Branch, designated as a Wild and Scenic Partnership River in 1994, is a resounding environmental and economic success. Partnership designation for the West Branch has fostered public-private partnerships to preserve the area's environment and heritage, while yielding the economic benefits to river towns.

The West Branch of the river is home to trout, river otter and bald eagle populations; and historic structures still grace its banks. Fishermen, hikers, canoeists and kayakers enjoy the river and its banks year-round. In addition, a 2003 study by North Carolina State University found that partnership designation resulted in millions in economic activity and increased property values in the river towns of Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, Hartland, and New Hartford.

I hope to see the rest of the Farmington River, as well as Salmon Brook, enjoy similar success. This new initiative is an ideal way to extend that protection and showcase the river's unique cultural and recreational resources, including native American archaeological sites and the Farmington River Canal remnants.

The Lower Farmington also offers recreational opportunities and has been the site of U.S. Olympic Team white water slalom trials. Additionally, the river is home to native brook trout and the slimy sculpin, two fish species only found in areas of high-quality water.

The study of the river is an essential step forward in the designation process. With its strong bipartisan support, I also would like to thank the Resources Committee for bringing this bill forward. I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic River Study Act, I rise in strong support of this very important bill.

Connecticut is fortunate to be the home of the Farmington River, which hosts a wealth of natural beauty, a variety of wildlife, and a cultural past important to our state, region, and Nation. In 1994, Congress recognized the upper section of the Farmington—a 14 mile-long stretch that runs from the base of the Goodwin Dam in Hartland to the downstream border of Canton and New Hartford, as Wild and Scenic. As a federally protected river segment, the natural splendor and resources of